

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02
PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 ICAE-00
A-01 OPR-02 IO-13 /067 W
-----049609 091059Z /14

O 091035Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8628

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 6004

WELLINGTON PLS PASS TO VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, ID

SUBJECT: PHASED RELEASE OF DETAINEES

1. WE HAVE QUERIED AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE ON AUSTRALIAN PRESS REPORTS OF GOI DECISION TO PROCEED WITH PHASED RELEASE OF DETAINEES HELD FOR ASSOCIATION WITH 1965 ATTEMPTED COMMUNIST COUP. AUSTRALIAN EMBOFFS INFORM US THAT TWO AUSTRALIAN CORRESPONDENTS HAD LEARNED, PROBABLY FROM FONDEPT SOURCE THAT UP TO 5,000 PRISONERS WOULD BE RELEASED ON AUGUST 17, INDONESIAN NATIONAL DAY, OF WHOM UP TO 2,000 WOULD BE FROM BURU ISLAND DETENTION CENTER. THE ACCELERATED RELEASES WERE ATTRIBUTED TO THE FACT THAT LAST YEAR'S RELEASES HAD PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY AND RELEASEES HAD HAD NO TROUBLE RESETTLING OR FINDING JOBS.

2. MINISTER OF STATE/STATE SECRETARY SUDHARMONO TOLD AMBASSADOR TODAY (MAY 9) THAT THE AUSTRALIAN REPORT IS BASICALLY CORRECT AND THAT THERE IS AGREEMENT "IN PRINCIPLE" ALONG THESE LINES. WHILE NOTING THAT DECISION
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WAS NOT ABSOLUTELY FIRM, SUDHARMONO EXPECTED "NO OBSTACLES TO BE RAISED." COMMENT: SUDHARMONO'S REMARKS SUGGEST THAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN WORKED OUT BY THE APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIALS BUT DOES NOT YET HAVE SUHARTO'S FINAL CHOP.

3. A LOWER LEVEL SOURCE CLOSE TO TOP MILITARY AUTHORITIES

SAID THAT INDONESIA PLANS TO RELEASE THE 10,000 DETAINEES
THIS YEAR IN FOUR STAGES. ANY ONE GROUP COULD INCLUDE AS MANY
AS 3,000 DETAINEES OR AS FEW AS 1,000, BUT THE TOTAL FOR
ALL FOUR WOULD DEFINITELY BE 10,000. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT
AT LEAST ONE OF THE GROUPS WOULD BE RELEASED BEFORE AUGUST
17.

4. WE HAVE BEEN IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH VICE PRESIDENT'S
PARTY ON THIS DEVELOPMENT AND SUGGEST DEPARTMENT NOT, RPT
NOT, PUBLICLY CONFIRM AUSTRALIAN REPORTS UNTIL FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS
ARE RECEIVED FROM VICE PRESIDENT.
MASTERS

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